

Senate Resolution 388

By: Senator Orrock of the 36th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to enact the Prevention First Act (H.R. 8191S.21); and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, improving access to preventive health care and supporting healthy families
4 should be a shared national goal; and

5 WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Georgia has the
6 seventh highest number of AIDS cases in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, the Legislature further recognizes that Guttmacher Institute studies show
8 Georgia has the 8th highest teenage pregnancy rate of any state; and

9 WHEREAS, the Legislature further recognizes that Guttmacher Institute studies show family
10 planning clinics in Georgia serve only 41 percent of all women in need of publicly supported
11 contraceptive services; and

12 WHEREAS, increased funding from the federal government would ameliorate the problems
13 of unintended pregnancies and high rates of sexually-transmitted disease, as well as the
14 current insufficient levels of funds to address these crises; and

15 WHEREAS, the Prevention First Act (H.R. 819/S.21) introduced in the 110th Congress by
16 Representative Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), is an omnibus
17 family planning initiative that expands access to preventive health care services and
18 education programs to help reduce unintended pregnancy, prevent the spread of sexually
19 transmitted infections, and support healthy families by improving women's health. This
20 federal legislation offers to amend public health legislation, including Title I, Title II, Title
21 III, Title IV, Title V, Title VI, Title VII, and Title VIII; and

22 WHEREAS, Title I should be amended to authorize \$700 million in funding for Title X
23 women's clinics; and

1 WHEREAS, Title II should be amended to require private health plans to cover
2 FDA-approved prescription contraceptives and related medical services; and

3 WHEREAS, Title III should be amended to direct the Secretary of Health and Human
4 Services to develop and disseminate information about emergency contraception (EC) to the
5 public and to health care; and

6 WHEREAS, Title IV should be amended to require that hospitals receiving federal funds
7 provide victims of sexual assault with information and access to EC; and

8 WHEREAS, Title V should be amended to provide annual funding to public and private
9 entities to establish or expand teenage pregnancy prevention programs; and

10 WHEREAS, Title VI should be amended to require federally funded programs that provide
11 information on the use of contraceptives to ensure that the information is medically accurate
12 and includes health benefits and failure rates; and

13 WHEREAS, Title VII should be amended to strengthen Medicaid coverage of family
14 planning services; and

15 WHEREAS, Title VIII should be amended to provide for comprehensive, medically accurate
16 sex education programs that teach young people about abstinence, health, and contraceptives;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, sponsored by Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) and Representative Louise Slaughter
19 (D-NY), respectively, such legislation is supported by public health advocates groups across
20 the nation.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
22 fully support and strongly encourage the passage of the Prevention First Act (H.R. 8
23 19/S.21).

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
25 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to each member of the Georgia
26 Congressional Delegation.